



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



Veterans' Affairs Committee
Testimony of Bureau Chief Nancy Pugliese, Bureau of Standards and Certification
February 25, 2014

Thank you Senator Leone, Representative Hennessy, Senator Welch, Representative Yaccarino, and members of the Veterans' Affairs Committee for the opportunity to comment on HB 5299 and SB 212, *An Act Concerning The Findings Of The Military Occupational Specialty Task Force*.

The Department would like to raise a couple questions and concerns regarding this bill. Specifically, we are concerned about subsection (5) of section 7, which states that the Commissioner of the Department of Veterans' Affairs shall have the power to: (5) To take any steps necessary to ensure that state agencies recognize and accept military training and experience when a veteran applies for an occupational license, and that the spouses of veterans are provided with automatic temporary occupational licenses, including temporary certifications for teachers;

We do not issue automatic or temporary certifications. We have policies, regulations, and statutes that determine the certification process. This appears to be an attempt to override these requirements. As we continue our work to ensure that every classroom and every student has a high quality teacher we must continue to enforce high standards for the teaching profession. While we certainly acknowledge the challenges military families face and the profound value they can bring to the Connecticut teaching profession, we would request an opportunity to collaborate regarding potential approaches towards a better solution, rather than attempt to circumvent our certification requirements.

We look forward to working with you to address this important issue.

Thank you.